

JOHNS' SLUDGE POND

KANSAS

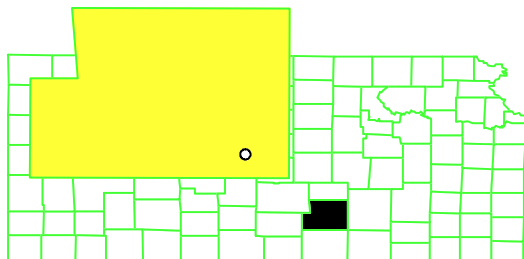
EPA ID# KSD980631980

EPA Region 7

City: Wichita

County: Sedgwick County

Other Names: Johns' Oil Sludge
Pit



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Johns' Sludge Pond site covers 1/2 acre and is located in an industrialized area in northern Wichita. From 1951 to 1970, Super Refined Oil, which no longer is in business, recycled waste oil and disposed of an estimated 7,000 cubic yards of oily sludge into an unlined pond. The principal hazard associated with the site was the acidity of the sludge and the water lying above it. Historically, the site would overflow periodically during periods of heavy rainfall, releasing its contents to the surrounding surface waters. Most of the site is owned by the Johns' Estate. The City of Wichita condemned the west third of the site in the 1970s, to provide drainage along the adjacent highway and, as a result, own this part of the site. A drainage ditch located adjacent to the site carries surface water from the site to Chisholm Creek, 1 1/2 miles downgradient of the site. Chisholm Creek flows into a concrete ditch receiving runoff from the adjacent highway and empties into the Arkansas River south of the city. Fishing takes place in a borrow pit located adjacent to the site. Currently, there are no wells at or near the site used for drinking.

Site Responsibility:

This site was addressed through Federal and municipal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/30/82

Final Date: 09/08/83

Deleted Date: 01/06/92

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

Before cleanup, the site contained highly acidic sludge, topped by acidic water. The EPA found heavy metals including lead, as well as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in some of the sludge at the site. Both the sludge and surface water were highly acidic and contained lead and PCBs. Site cleanup activities have alleviated the potential harm to public health and the environment.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: Under EPA oversight, the City of Wichita's Department of Public Works removed sludge from the impoundment and stockpiled it on the adjacent ground surface. The City then installed a compacted clay soil liner on the bottom and sidewalls of the empty impoundment. Solidified stockpiled sludge was neutralized with cement kiln dust and re-deposited in the lined disposal cell. The City then constructed a compacted clay cap above the solidified sludge, and covered the cap with soil and vegetation. Deed restrictions were placed on the property, preventing land uses that would interfere with the effectiveness of these actions. The site was fenced to prevent dirt bike riding and other activities that could damage the cap and cover, and no-trespassing signs were posted. The EPA installed additional monitoring wells to determine the direction of groundwater flow and the nature and degree of contamination, if any, of downgradient groundwater. Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita continue to conduct monitoring and maintenance of the cap and vegetative cover.

Entire Site: In 1989, the EPA, in consultation with the State of Kansas, determined that no further cleanup actions were required for the Johns' Sludge Pond and signed a Record of Decision selecting the already completed site cleanup as the final site remedy. The EPA found that the initial actions already conducted at the site by the City of Wichita are protective of public health and the environment. The site was deleted from the NPL in January of 1992.

Site Facts: In 1983, the EPA issued a Consent Order to the City of Wichita, requiring the City to submit a site cleanup plan for the EPA's approval. An interim cleanup plan was submitted, approved, and implemented. The EPA evaluated the adequacy of the interim cleanup and, in 1991, determined that no further action was required at the site, except for continued site monitoring and maintenance. Five-year reviews of this remedial action will continue even though the site has been deleted from the NPL. The EPA completed the second five-year review of this remedial action in 1997, and found this remedy continues to be protective.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



The cleanup actions performed by the City of Wichita have addressed the potential for exposure to hazardous substances at the Johns' Sludge Pond site. The EPA determined that no further cleanup actions were needed and that the site no longer posed a threat to human health or the environment. The John's Sludge Pond site was deleted from the NPL on January 1, 1992. The groundwater on the site continues to be monitored by the City of Wichita to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the initial cleanup actions.

SITE REPOSITORY



Wichita City Hall, 455 N. Main,
Wichita, KS 67202

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:

Catherine Barrett

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

barrett.catherine@epa.gov.
(913) 551-7704

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COORDINATOR:

PHONE NUMBER:

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

STATE CONTACT:

Mary Daily, KDHE

PHONE NUMBER:

(785) 296-8896

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

KS
0735

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

04

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-SUPR/SACR

MODIFICATIONS